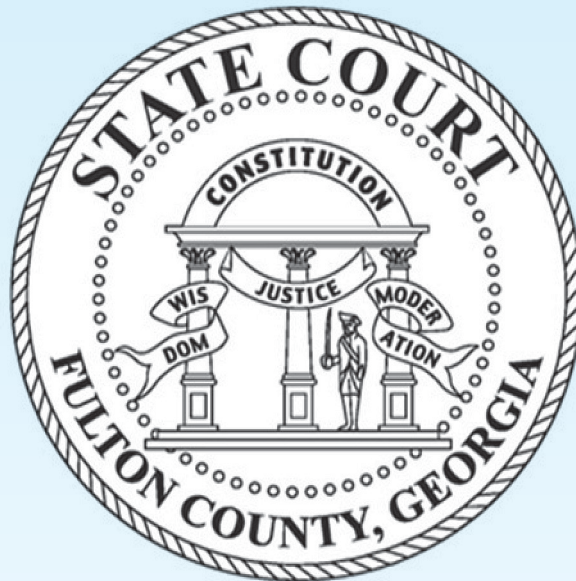




State Court of Fulton County

2011 Annual Report



*The Honorable Patsy Y. Porter, Chief Judge
Cicely Barber, State Court Administrator
Mark N. Harper, Chief Clerk*

"Court Leadership through Innovation and Customer Service."

*100 Justice Tower
185 Central Avenue, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303*

Table of Contents

State Court Judges.....3

Court Administrator.....4

State Court Management.....5

State Court Administration.....6

State Court Garnishment Division.....7

State Court Data Entry Division.....9

State Court Cashier’s Division.....11

State Court Civil Division.....13

State Court Criminal Division.....14

Traffic Division.....15

Jury Division.....17

Magistrate Court Judges.....18

Magistrate Court Criminal Warrants Division.....19

Magistrate Court Dispossession Division.....21

Magistrate Court Small Claims Division.....23

Roundtrip Division and Magistrate Court Case Managers.....24

North and South Annexes.....25

Fulton County DUI Court.....26

Self-Help Center.....27

Community Initiatives.....28

State Court Judges



Chief Judge Patsy Y. Porter

Judge John R. Mather

Judge Susan B. Forsling

Judge Brenda H. Cole

Judge Myra H. Dixon

Judge Diane Bessen

Judge Fred C. Eady (not pictured)

Judge Susan E. Edlein

Judge Jay M. Roth

Judge Wesley B. Tailor

Court Administrator – Cicely Barber



2011 was a year of many firsts for State and Magistrate Court. We began the year with the State of the Court meeting, our first all employee meeting to discuss the vision of the Court and the results of our first internal employee survey.

In March 2011, we opened Georgia’s first Self-Help Center. With the assistance of Atlanta Legal Aid we are able to offer self-help videos and interactive computer interviews that allow pro se parties to fill out pleadings by answering a series of questions. Our partners, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers’ Foundation and the Real Estate Section of the Atlanta Bar Association provide pro bono legal consultations to tenants and landlords involved in dispossessory actions. We are very pleased to be the first to offer this much needed customer service within our Courts.

We also updated our website to make it more user-friendly and offer more online court information. To further improve customer service, each office now has Customer Comment Forms to allow our customers to give us both kudos and constructive criticism. We strengthen our ties to the community with a joint shoe drive with the Marshal’s Department benefiting the non-profit organization, 40 Girls & Some Shoes. We also held our annual food drive for the Atlanta Food Bank. We bridged the gap between our Judges and employees by creating the Brown Bag Lunch series hosted by the State Court Judges.

To improve the morale of employees, we now have the Employee Advisory Committee. This Committee held a successful bake sale in December to raise money for rewards and incentives for the employees. Additionally in 2011, this Committee spent a day visiting Cobb County State Court to get improvement ideas for our Court. The Committee has already been instrumental in helping draft standard operating procedures for the Court. We also started a weekly employee spotlight that helps us to get to know all employees of the Court beyond the work they perform.

All offices in the Justice Center Tower received a makeover in their reception areas. We added new furniture and artwork. Additionally, each reception area is painted the “signature” State and Magistrate Court colors.

We began 2011 together with our State of the Court meeting and we ended it together at our Annual Holiday Breakfast. The above is just a snapshot of our successes in 2011, and we look forward to an even better 2012.

State and Magistrate Court Management Team

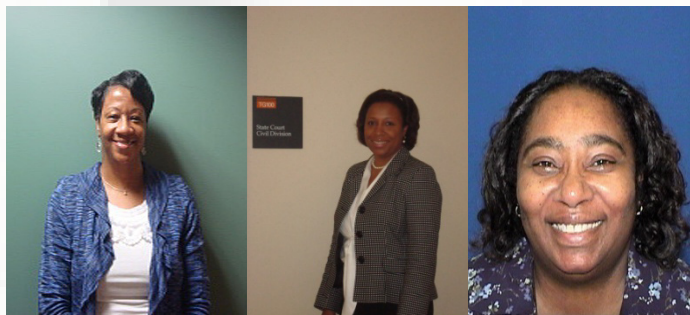


Mark N. Harper, Chief Clerk

The Clerk’s Office was pleased to implement 6 useful ideas from the Best Idea of the Month Contest. New ideas are always welcome and it can only make our Court a better place. Please continue to submit them! Also, Court Administration, your Chief Deputies and supervisors are making great progress on the new Odyssey computer system to replace Banner. The new Odyssey system is already shaping up to be light years ahead.



Tyrone Coley, Administrative Manager



Left to right, Sheila Shah-Chief Deputy Clerk Criminal Division, Angela Dash Jones-Chief Deputy Clerk Civil Division, Susan Barnes-Chief Deputy Clerk Magistrate Court



State Court Administration



Back Row: Donald Talley, Chris Scott, and Tyrone Coley

Seated: Vanessa Williamson and Jennifer Mitchell

State Court Administration provides administrative support services to the State and Magistrate Courts of Fulton County. The types of services provided include budget and financial management and personnel services. The mission of the State and Magistrate Courts of Fulton County is to serve the citizens of Fulton County and members of the Bar by providing the highest quality of justice in a courteous, efficient, and cost effective manner.

State Court Garnishment Division



Angela Dash Jones
Chief Deputy Clerk



Josephine McLeod
Court Support
Manager

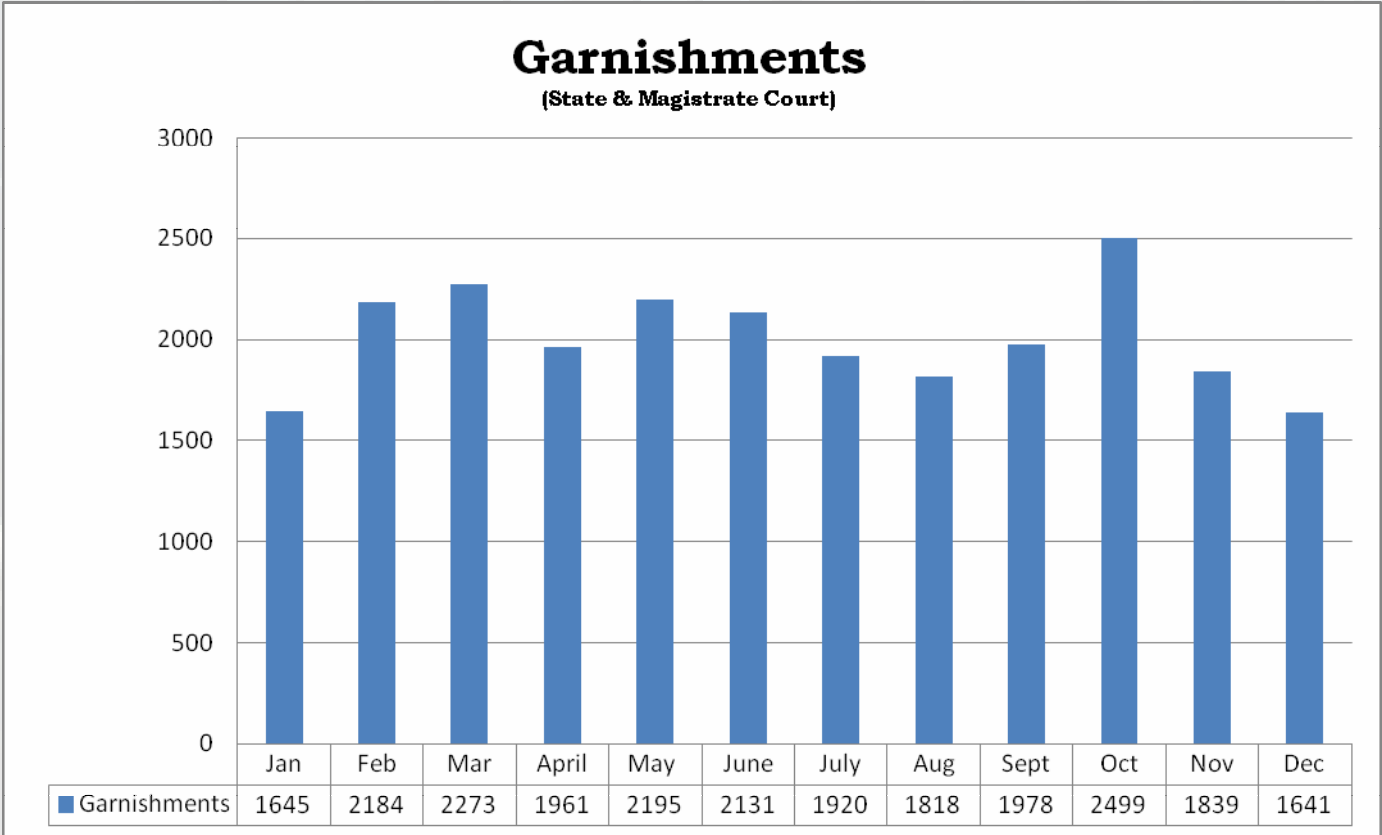


Back Row: Verneta Tolbert, Vicki Mills,
Dwayne Biggs, Bridget Bailey, Sheena Goolsby.
Front Row: Angela Dash Jones, Joyce Levine,
Yolonda Ellis. Seated: Josephine McLeod and
Denise Nichols.

Pulaski County
JUSTICE CENTER TOWER

State Court Garnishment Division

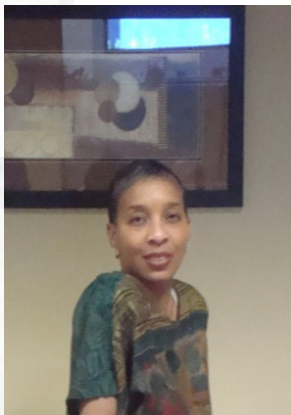
The clerks in the Garnishment Division processed over 24,000 State and Magistrate garnishment filings in 2011. The process begins with initial filing and determination of fees completed by the Cashier’s Division. The cases listed below were initiated by the Data Entry Division and forwarded to the Garnishment Division for processing. Our Garnishment Division is responsible for handling both State and Magistrate Court garnishment filing.



State Court Data Entry Division



Angela Dash Jones
Chief Deputy Clerk



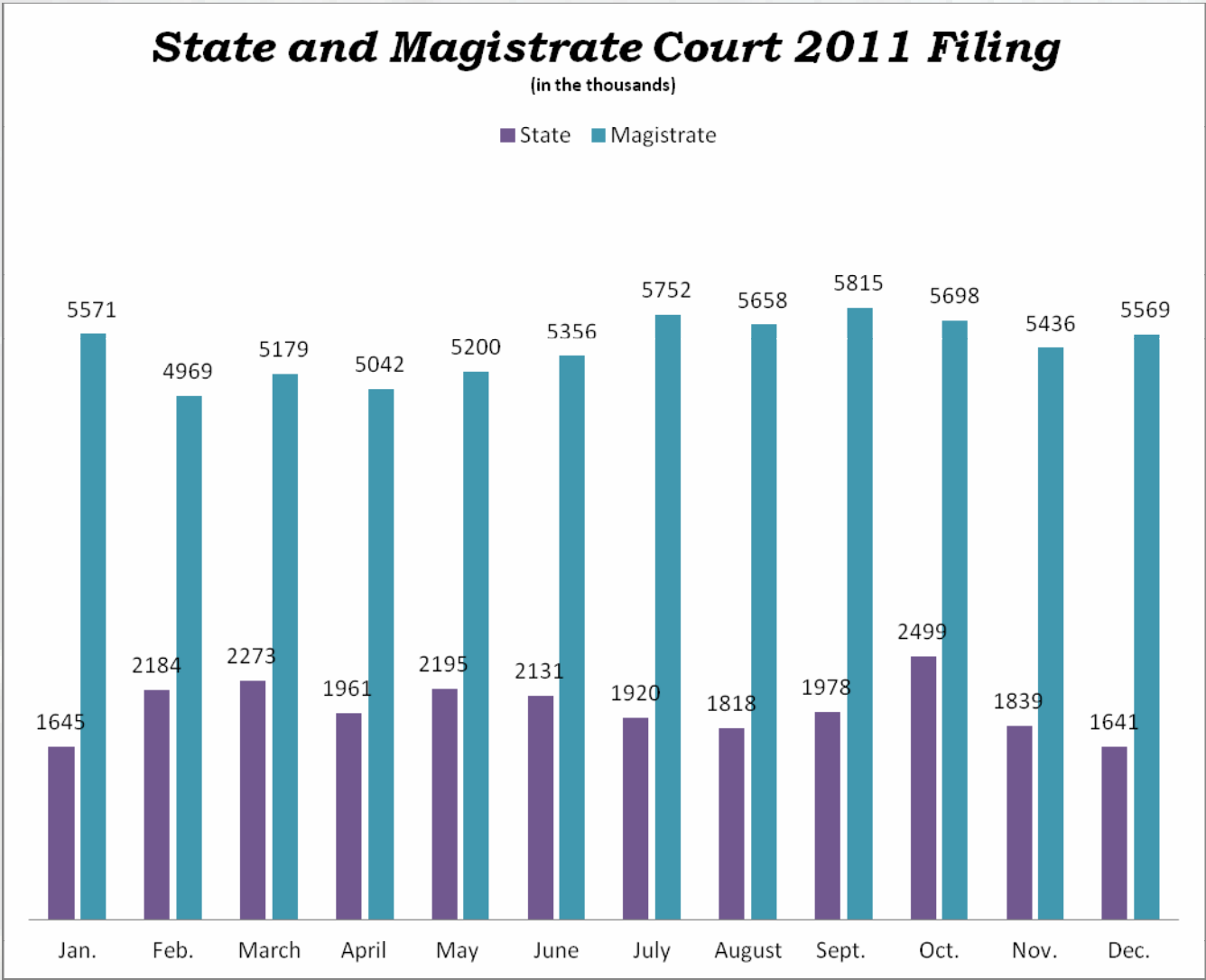
Toby Reddick
Court Support
Manager



Left to right: Lisa Smith, Tobye Reddick, Tressa
Madden, Freda Smith, Angela Dash Jones

State Court Data Entry Division

The State Court Data Entry Division initiates all new cases in Banner. In 2011, this team initiated more than 100,000 State and Magistrate Court cases along with other recorded documents transmitted through the Clerk’s office.



State Court Cashier's Division



Angela Dash Jones
Chief Deputy Clerk



David Roberts
Accountant

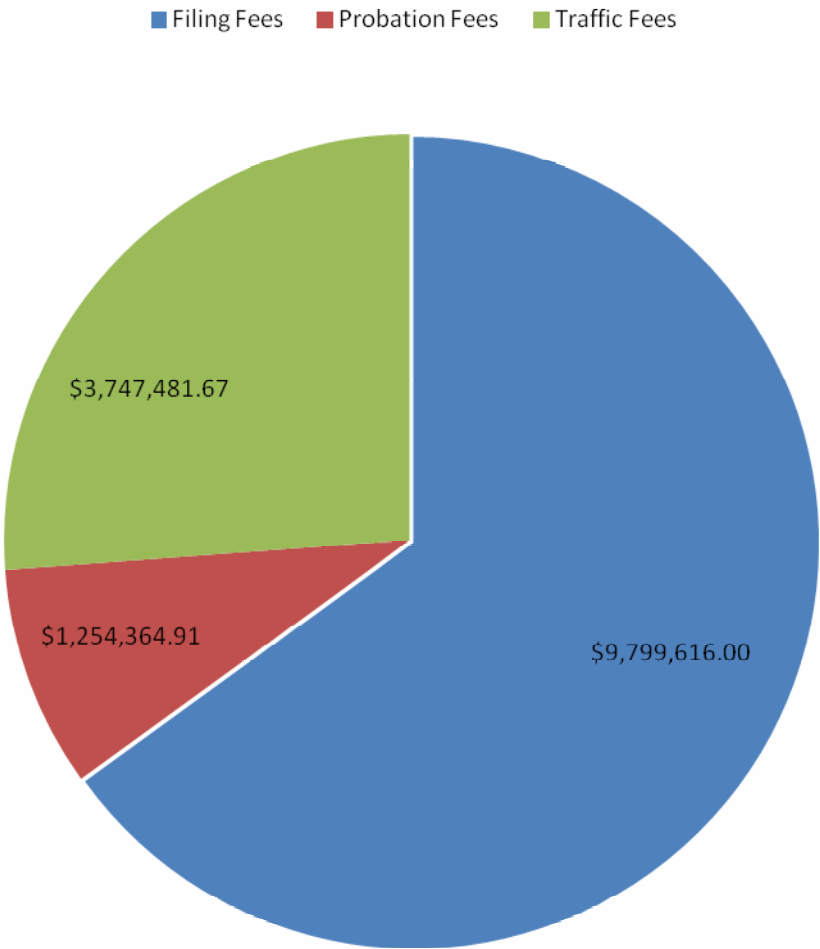


Left to right: Lakeisha Volley, Mary Anderson,
David Roberts, Jennifer Perdue, Cassandra
Williams. Not pictured: Leila Bates and
Sonya Jones.

State Court Cashier's Division

The Cashier's Division collects all fees and monies payable to State and Magistrate Court and manages all financial transactions. Annually, this Division collects several million dollars in fines and fees for State and Magistrate Court. This revenue is reconciled internally and transmitted to the Fulton County General Fund.

Revenue Collected

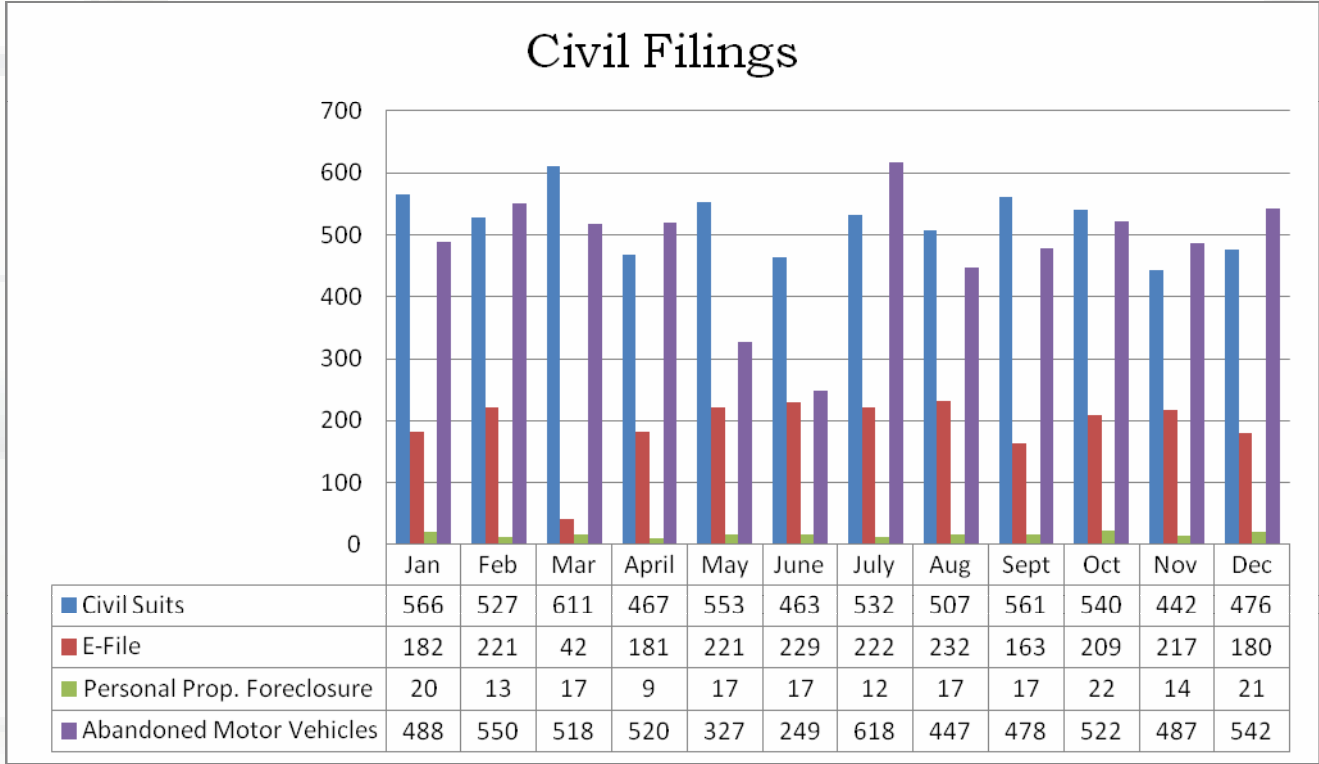


State Court Civil Division



Back row: Angela Dash Jones, Lamar Hawkins, George Frederick, Jatiya Jackson, Shakendra Toombs, Marvin Wooley. Front row: Telisha Blackshear, Arrylin Mosley, Demeter Bush, Michelle Rice, Jean Robinson, Myescha Brooks, Venesulia King-Hurst, Nikki Askew. Not pictured: Patricia Nesbitt and Joviera Humphrey

The Civil Division incorporates many units, including the Filing Desk, Records, Appeals and Transfers, and the Docket unit. Together this Division is responsible for all State Court civil filings, personal property foreclosures, abandoned motor vehicles, and appeals from the time of filing to disposition. In 2011, this Division processed more than 12,000 new filings.



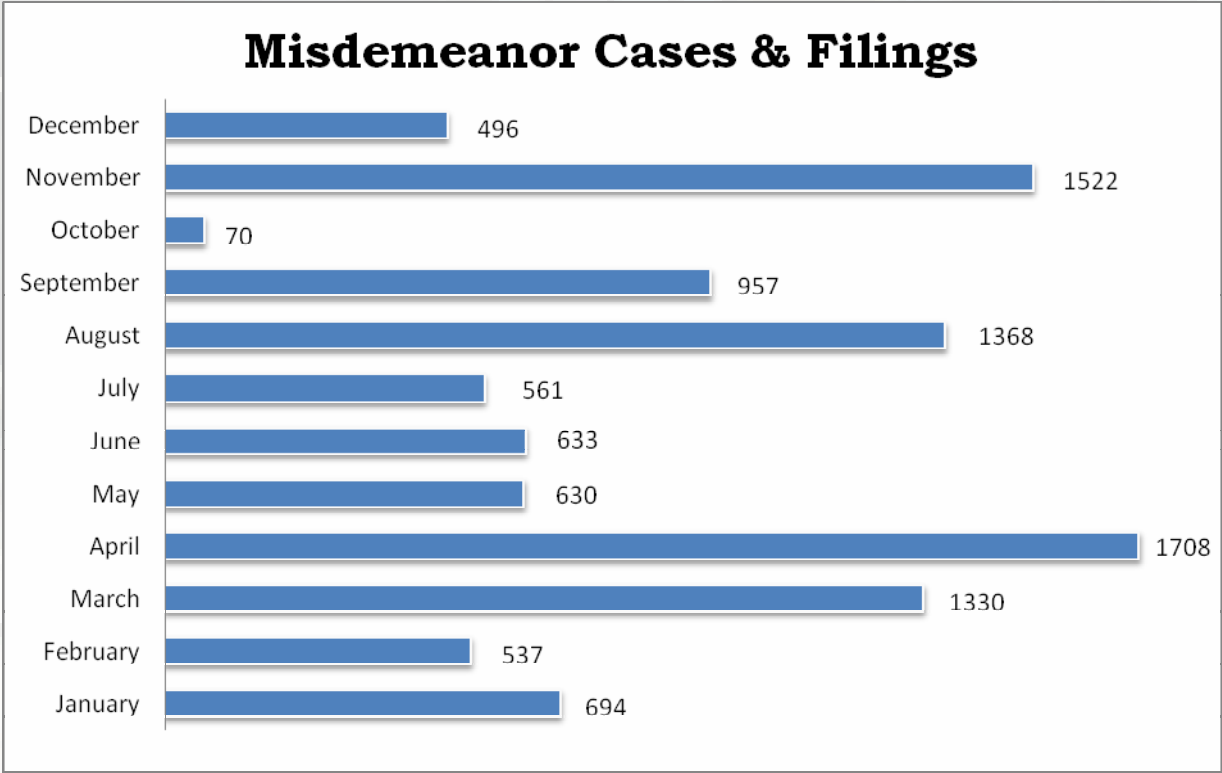
State Court Criminal Division



Shelia Shah
Chief Deputy Clerk

Front left to right: Patricia Lewis, Cayce Strong, Curtesia McLaughlin, Melissa Grace, Catrina Lewis. Back row: Erica Carnegie, Tracy Watkins, Shelia Shah, Jessica McTure, Tanika Mangham, April Champion. Not pictured: Ketalia Middlebrooks

The State Court Criminal Division is the official custodian of misdemeanor case filings from the Solicitor General. This Division files and processes all misdemeanor cases. The Criminal Division provides support to both State and Magistrate Court Judicial Case Managers.



Traffic Division



Shelia Shah
Chief Deputy Clerk



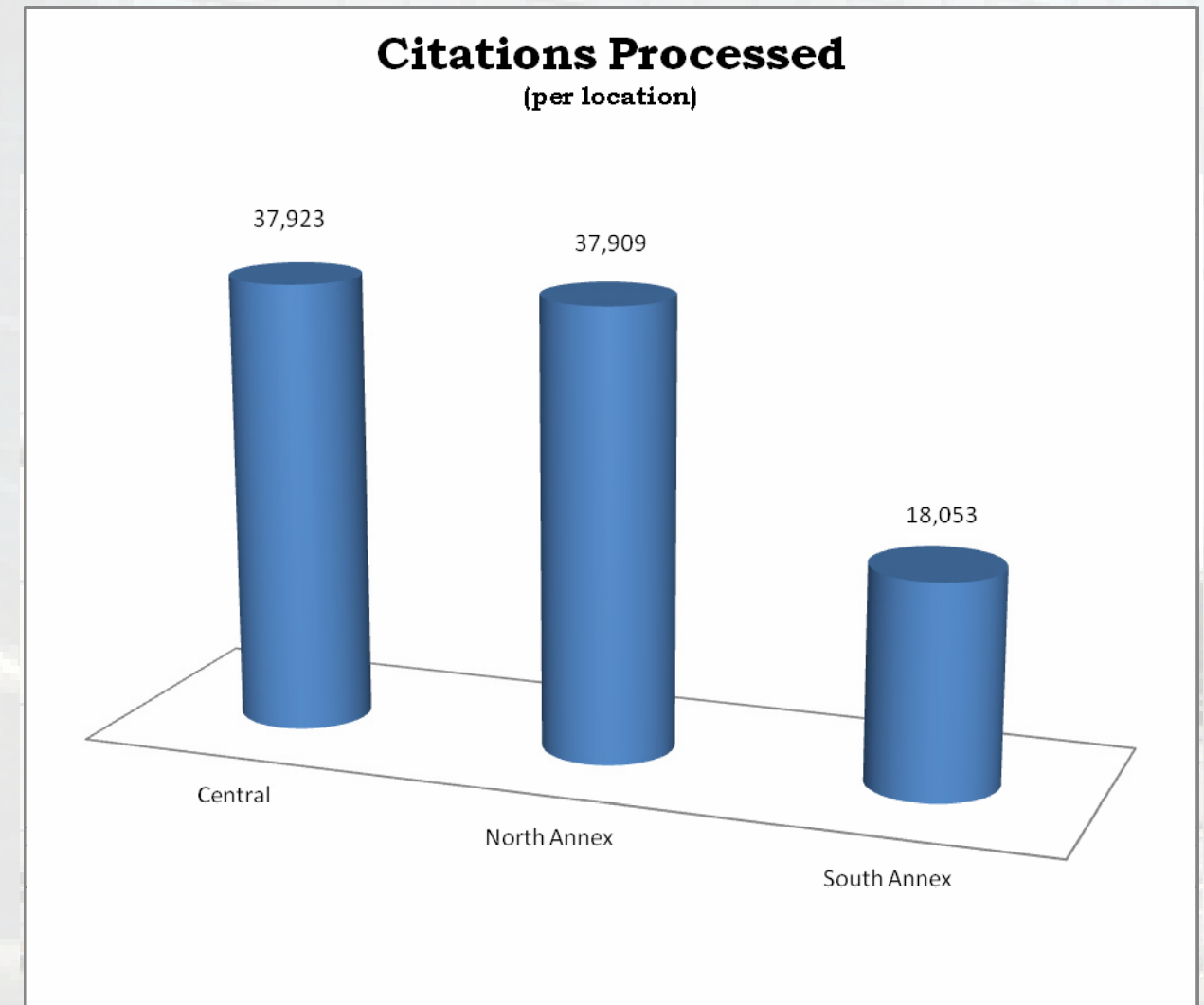
Jackie Davis
Court Support
Manager



Front left to right: Bridget Stanley, Angelica Jones, Lisa Murray and Jacqueline Davis. Back row left to right: Jarryd Lee and Andrea Henry

Traffic Division

The Traffic Division processes traffic citations written by the Fulton County Police Department, Georgia Tech Police, Fulton County Sheriff's Department, and the Georgia State Patrol. Clerks in this Division enter citations, process payments, and create the traffic calendars for the Magistrate Judges.



State Court Jury Division



Lynn Robinson
Jury Clerk



Left to right: Gabriel Thorne, Lynn Robinson and Kanika Young

The State Court Jury Division is responsible for issuing summons instructing citizens of Fulton County to appear for jury service. The Jury Division is also responsible for creating jury panels to send to the State Court Judges for trial. Once jury service is complete, this division disburses payment to the jurors for their service.

JURY STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Number of Jurors Seated	1304
Number of Jury Trials	160

Magistrate Court Judges



Chief Magistrate Judge Stephanie Davis



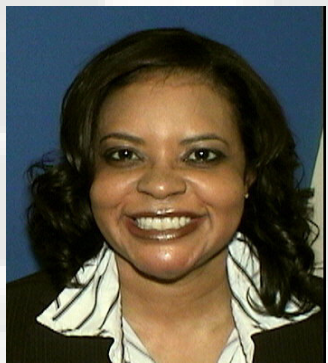
Judge Victoria Moran



Judge Kimberly Warden



Judge Sterling Eaves



Judge Stefani Lacour



Judge Melynee Leftridge

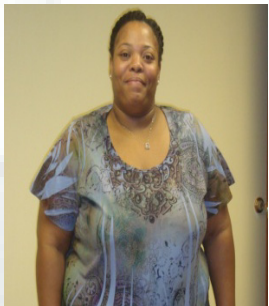


James Barnett, Staff Attorney

Magistrate Court Criminal Warrants



Susan Barnes
Chief Deputy
Clerk



Charlene Spear,
Court Support
Manager

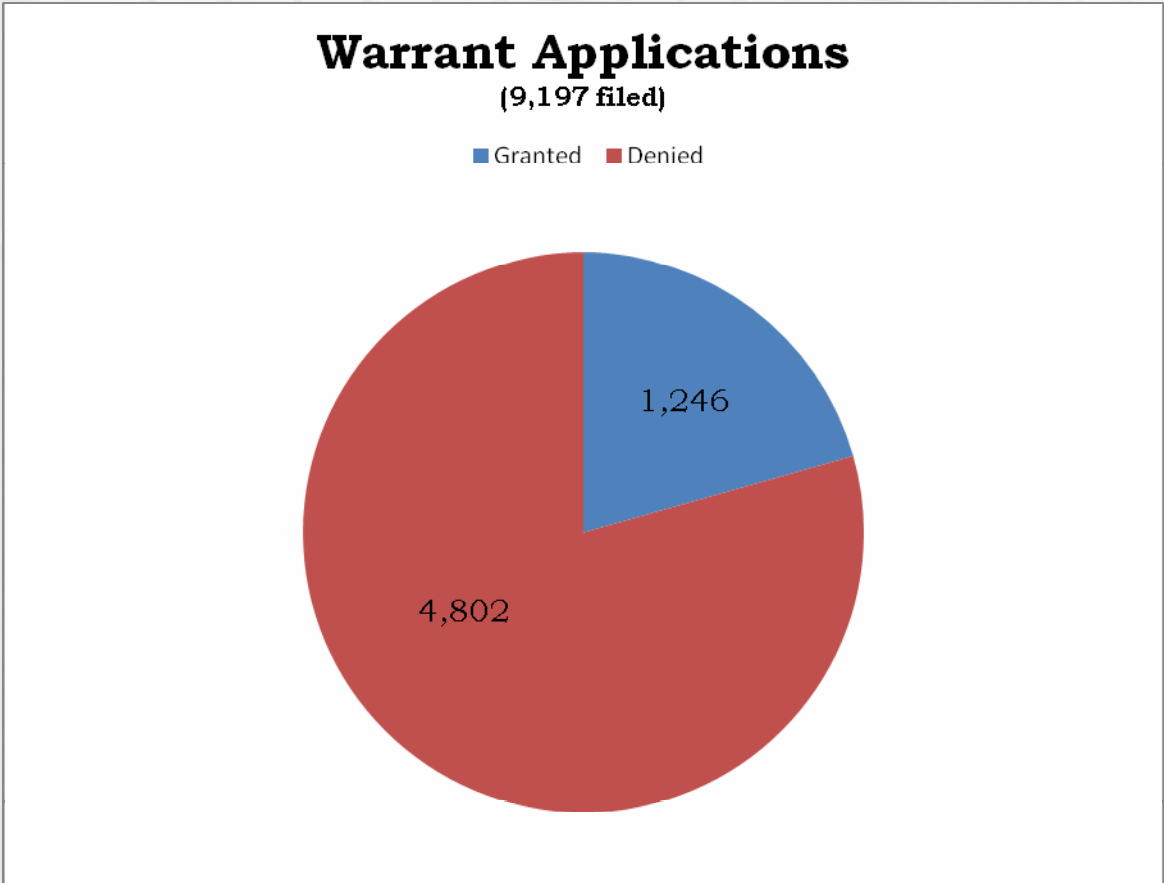


Back row starting from the left; Dexter Douglas, Dawn Bray, Michelle Morrow, and Mary Conklin. Front row starting from the left: Sheniqua Asby, Charlene Spear, Monica Tarver, and Jennifer Nelson

Fulton County
JUSTICE CENTER TOWER

Magistrate Court Criminal Warrants Division

The Criminal Warrant Division is responsible for entering criminal warrant applications and dispositions that are submitted through the Magistrate Court. This Division works closely with the Fulton County Jail, Marshal’s Department and our Criminal Division. In 2011, they processed more than 9,000 warrant applications.



Magistrate Court Dispossessionary Division



Susan Barnes
Chief Deputy
Clerk



Audrey Blackshear
Court Support
Manager

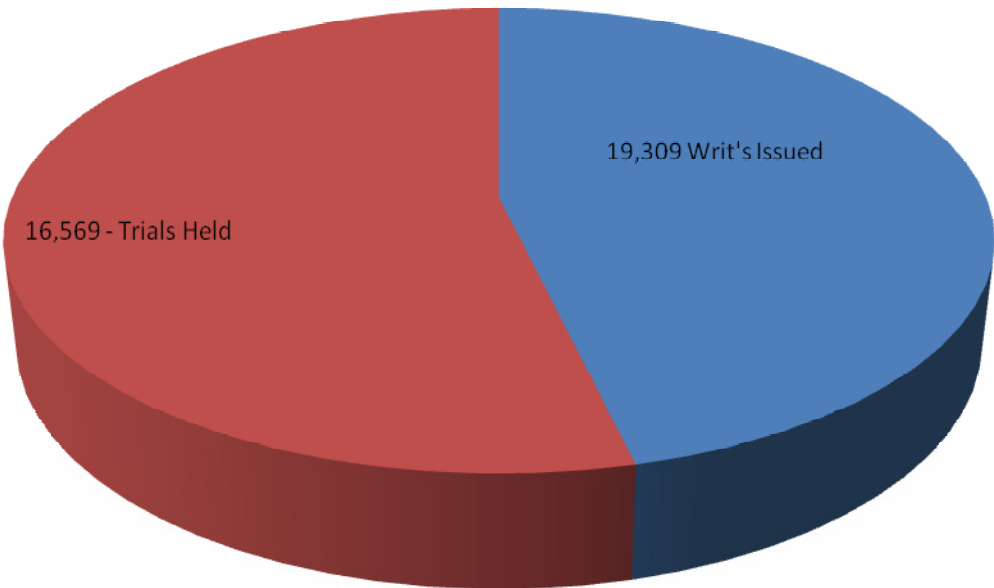


Left to right: Deborah Gamble, Tonia Bragg, Linda Ferrin, Natasha Hunley, Donnita Bergeron, Maria DeLong. Middle: Audrey Blackshear

Magistrate Court Dispossessionary Division

The Dispossessionary Division process begins with a complaint filed by a landlord wishing to evict a tenant. Clerks in this division process all filings from the dispossessionary complaint to the disposition of the case. They also attend court providing assistance to the presiding Magistrate. In 2011, this Division processed more than 48,000 evictions.

**Dispossessionary
(48,023 filed)**



Magistrate Court Small Claims Division



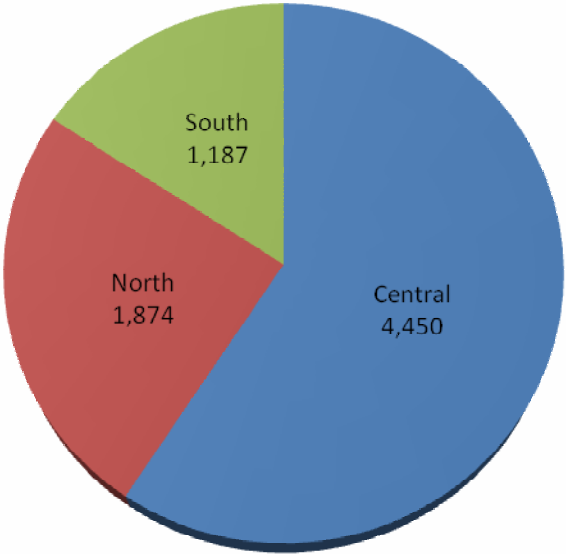
Susan Barnes
Chief Deputy
Clerk



Left to right: Sid Hillmon, Carrie Logan,
Andria Thurman, Schelethia Harrison and
Michelle Little

The Magistrate Court Small Claims Division processes civil suits involving \$15,000 or less. This division processes all filings from the Statement of Claim to disposition for the central office as well as the North and South Annexes. In 2011, the court received more than 16,000 case filings.

Small Claims Trials (16,735 filings)



Magistrate Court Judicial Case Manager and Roundtrip Divisions



Left to right: Shanell Young, Tracy Jones, Clarissa Lindsey, Elaine Daniels, Jamie Rowe. Not shown: Stephen Kelley

Magistrate Case Managers are a vital in court presence for most Magistrate calendars. They assist the Magistrates in court, create calendars, and record dispositions for some of the cases in the Magistrate Court.



Left to right: Shakeena Lake, Janene Smith, Jasmine Brooks and Alisya Saggus

Roundtrip Division

The primary function of this Division is to process all bound over cases from all of the arresting agencies in Fulton County. The clerks also create criminal histories for all defendants and research those defendants that already have criminal histories.

North and South Annexes

To provide convenient services to the residents of Fulton County, we have a team of Magistrates and clerks that serve at the North and South Annexes. They handle a variety of Magistrate Court duties, including processing over 15,000 traffic citations and holding over 5,000 trials combined in 2011.

North Annex



Judge Victoria Moran

South Annex



Judge Sterling Eaves



Left to right: Maxene Panos, David Gibson, Ruth Goodman and Marilyn Solomon.



Left to right: Nicole Rogers, Alexicuse Patterson and Suzy Gilbert

Fulton County DUI Court

The Fulton County DUI Court Program is a post-conviction treatment program for those who have multiple violations of driving while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants. It is part of the probation portion of a DUI sentence. The DUI Court Program is a team concept involving the Judge, the prosecutor, the public defender or the defense lawyer, the probation office, the Marshal's Department, the program coordinator, and substance abuse treatment professionals.

Fulton County DUI Court	
Number of participants since program began in 2007	139
Number of new participants accepted for 2011	42
Number of active participants in the program	79
Number of graduates since program began in 2007	88
Number of graduates in 2011	29
Number of DUI arrest/convictions of participants after graduation	2
Number of arrest/convictions of DUI or other crimes among active participants	0



The Program involves enhanced supervision, counseling, and treatment for the individual to function in the community with continuing support. The program's goal is to achieve sobriety of all Program participants to improve the quality of their lives and eliminate future violations of the law. All defendants accepted into the Program are assigned and supervised by Judge Susan B. Forsling.

Self-Help Center



Left to right: Yashika Jones, LeNora Hawkins and Zharella Ramos

On March 24, 2011, Fulton County State & Magistrate Court opened Georgia's first Self-Help Center (SHC). The mission of the SHC is to provide the public informed access to court information and support services to persons having legal matters in the State and Magistrate Courts of Fulton County. Weekly, this office makes contact with more than 500 litigants for reasons ranging from debt collection questions, translating various court documents to expungement of criminal records.

We are happy to partner with Atlanta Legal Aid, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF) and the Real Estate section of the Atlanta Bar Association to offer this much needed public service within our Court.



Partnering with the AVLF, the SHC has been able to provide free consultations to tenants facing evictions. Pictured here are Tamara Serwer Caldas (left), Deputy Director of AVLF and volunteer attorney Jennifer Hubbard. The Real Estate Section of the Atlanta Bar Association provides pro bono consultations once a month for landlords.

Community Initiatives

In 2011, State and Magistrate Court participated in two community service projects. We partnered with the Fulton County Marshal's Department to support the non-profit organization, 40 Girls & Some Shoes. Through this effort, we collected over 4,000 pair of shoes. The Court also sponsored our First Annual Holiday Food Drive for the Atlanta Community Food Bank. We want to increase our community outreach in 2012 by having quarterly community service projects.







www.georgiacourts.org/courts/fulton
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